

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 105873 TOSEC 040117
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 105873 TOSEC 040117

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS (FRED BROWN)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, MASS, IS

SUBJECT: DAILY BRIEFING: U. S. ARMS POLICY AND ISRAEL

NO. 16

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR TODAY'S NOON
BRIEFING.

2. BEGIN GUIDANCE:

Q: WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY TO FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON'S
REPORTED WORRIES THAT ISRAEL IS IN DANGER AT LOSING ITS
SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP IN ARMS SUPPLIES FROM THE UNITED
STATES UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER'S NEW ARMS-TRANSFER POLICY?

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PAGE 02 STATE 105873 TOSEC 040117

A. -- AS THE SECRETARY SAID IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE LAST
WEEK, THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT MADE FINAL DECISIONS ON THE
ARMS TRANSFER POLICY AND PRIOR TO THOSE DECISIONS WE ARE
NOT GOING TO DISCUSS ITS SPECIFICS.

-- AS A GENERAL PROPOSITION, I CAN NOTE THAT THE UNITED

STATES HAS A CONTINUING ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL, AND THAT WILL BE MAINTAINED.

Q: WERE THESE DECISIONS, AND THEIR POSSIBLE IMPACT ON ISRAEL, DISCUSSED IN A MEETING BETWEEN LESLIE GELB, ROY ATHERTON AND AMBASSADOR DINITZ LAST WEEK?

A: -- LESLIE GELB AND ROY ATHERTON DID HOLD A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DINITZ LAST FRIDAY.

-- THE SUBJECT OF ARMS TRANSFER POLICY AND THE ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP TO IT DID COME UP BRIEFLY, BUT IT WAS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL SUBJECTS DISCUSSED. IT WAS NOT, REPEAT NOT, THE REASON FOR THE MEETING.

-- I AM NOT GOING INTO THE SPECIFICS OF THE MEETING.

Q: DID THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN THAT MEETING TELL DINITZ THAT WE WOULD APPROVE SALE OF THE KFIR FIGHTER, WITH AMERICAN COMPONENTS, TO AUSTRIA?

A: -- THAT SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED. I DON'T THINK IT IS APPROPRIATE TO GET INTO DETAILS IN PUBLIC. AS WE SAID EARLIER, WE ARE PREPARED TO EXAMINE ISRAELI SALE OF THE KFIR FIGHTER, WITH AMERICAN COMPONENTS, TO AUSTRIA?

IF PRESSED, ON BACKGROUND, SAY:

-- AMBASSADOR DINITZ, WAS INFORMED THAT THE UNITED STATES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 105873 TOSEC 040117

IS PREPARED TO APPROVE SUCH A TRANSACTION, SHOULD ISRAEL AND AUSTRIA REACH AGREEMENT ON A SALE OF THE KFIR. DETAILS OF ANY SUCH TRANSACTION SHOULD COME FROM THOSE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

Q: WHAT IS THE ADMINISTRATION ATTITUDE TOWARD THE HUMPHREY-CASE AMENDMENT PROPOSED TO THE FOREIGN AID BILL, TO TREAT ISRAEL AS THE UNITED STATES DOES NATO PARTNERS IN ARMS SUPPLIES?

A: -- WE UNDERSTAND SUCH AN AMENDMENT WAS BROUGHT UP IN THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERING THE BILL.

-- THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT MADE HIS DECISIONS ON ARMS SUPPLY POLICY. PRIOR TO THOSE DECISIONS, I HAVE NO COMMENT ON SUCH A PROPOSAL. END GUIDANCE.

3. PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY FIRST, RPT FIRST ANSWER WAS

ACTUALLY USED TODAY, SINCE QUESTIONS ON REMAINING POINTS
DID NOT ARISE. SUBJECT, HOWEVER, WAS OF GREAT INTEREST AND
THERE WERE REPEATED ATTEMPTS BY CORRESPONDENTS TO ELICIT

FURTHER COMMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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